

## Climate Resilient Landscaping Strategies

<b>Date:</b>	November 30, 2021
<b>Department, GM:</b>	Ron Higo, General Manager of Community Services
<b>Project Manager:</b>	Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks
<b>Staff Lead:</b>	Robbie Nall, Superintendent of Parks
<b>Project Origin:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Council Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Initiated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Climate Action Plan project
<b>Priority Area:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional Service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy City <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Evolution
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	<u>Objective:</u> Maintain and enhance Port Moody's natural and built assets while reducing the impact on our planet. <u>Action:</u> Reduce the City's impact on the planet.
<b>Proposed Priority</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority Level 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Priority Level 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Priority Level 3

### Project Description

Develop strategies and standards to ensure landscaping on public lands are drought/heat/wind/flood resistant while promoting biodiversity and soil health. Urban landscaping and green infrastructure can play a key role in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change in many ways, including providing habitat for species, absorbent landscaping to manage stormwater, and reducing the heat island effect.

### Relevant Background

In July of 2020, Council endorsed Port Moody's first Climate Action Plan, a comprehensive set of goals, targets, and actions to guide Port Moody in becoming a carbon neutral, climate resilient community by 2050.

In February of 2021, Council endorsed a Phase One Climate Action Implementation Strategy, outlining 23 actions from the Climate Action Plan to implement from 2021 to 2022. Developing climate ready standards and strategies for landscaping on public lands is one of the 23 actions endorsed for implementation in 2021.

During the Climate Action Plan community open house, public feedback prioritized the development of landscape strategies that address:

- the consideration of climate change risks in the design of parks and street boulevard (sidewalks) landscaping;
- the planting of species including native plants that are resistant to drought, heat, wind and flooding; and
- the planting of climate resilient plants including native species that create pollinator habitat in local parks.

## Project Objectives

The specific objectives to achieve this goal include:

- Select plants best suited for adaption to climate change. Ensure native plants are included in this process, combined with suitable non-native plants. Invasive potential of all plants must be factored in all choices.
- Increase biodiversity through planting design. Expand pollinator habitats in local parks and streetscapes.
- Develop landscape standards based on landscape ecology and a blend of science and planning using a regional scope to achieve climate resilience goals.
- Incorporate climate change risks and vulnerability assessments into landscape planning and development.
- Identify opportunities to implement climate resilient landscaping on City lands throughout neighborhoods and parks in Port Moody.
- Draft Port Moody-specific standards for City lands and development projects, for different types of landscapes.
- Align project goals and outputs with green infrastructure plans.
- Select planting material to include plants of cultural significance, including medicinal and edible plants.

## Scope

<b>In Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Developing climate resilient landscaping standard and strategies for all City and development projects.</li><li>- Pilot project plantings on City lands.</li><li>- Medium term (5 year) strategy/plan and budget for City lands.</li><li>- Input into Green Infrastructure (GI) policy/plan – some of the landscaping strategies will incorporate rain gardens or similar features that are typically categorized as GI. The potential overlap with other bigger initiatives around GI policy and standards in Port Moody is recognized.</li></ul>
<b>Out of Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Public engagement</li><li>- Advertising costs</li><li>- Developing strategies and standards for private lands</li></ul>

Work Plan Overview	
<b>Project start date:</b> January 2021	<b>Project end date:</b> Q4 2022
<i>Deliverable/Milestone:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<b>Phase 1:</b> Pilot project #1 involves purchasing soil moisture meters and drought tolerant plants for the Shoreline trail sign bed.	Q1 2021
<b>Phase 2:</b> Seek consultant expertise to develop standards. Implement Pilot #2.	Q3-Q4 2021
<b>Phase 3:</b> Finalize standards, draft strategy (site selection, budgets, monitor and inventory pilots, maintenance, identifying areas to convert). Implement Pilot #3.	Q1-Q4 2022
<b>Ongoing:</b> Apply standards to existing landscaped areas. Ongoing monitoring and maintenance.	Ongoing as part of operational work.

Budget	
<b>Budget Source:</b>	
Environment and Parks Department Budget in 2021 (approved)	\$20,000
Environment and Parks Department Budget in 2022 (not approved)	\$50,000
Environment and Parks Department Budget in 2023 (not approved)	\$50,000
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request Referral to Finance Committee</b>	

Decision Notes		
Date	Meeting	Decision